

Subject: **April 1, 2005 Meeting Minutes**

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A meeting of the Perchlorate Community Advisory Group was held at the San Martin Lions Club, 12415 Murphy Avenue, San Martin, on April 1, 2005 at 2 pm.

I. Pledge: The Chair, Ms. Sylvia Hamilton, led the Pledge.

II. Administrative Items:

- A. Introductions
- B. Attendee Sign-In Sheet was routed
- C. No new agenda items were added
- D. March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2005 meeting minutes approved as written
- E. Upcoming Presentations
  - 1. PCAG committee is interested in inviting Jesus Cruz to do a presentation regarding UTC clean up plans.
  - 2. Olin should be invited to present on long-term clean up implementation as soon as possible.

III. Presentation/Discussion Topics

- A. RWQCB Update (Eric Gobler)
  - 1. **State Board Responses:** All comments regarding the State Board's draft position regarding the Alternative Water Cleanup and Abatement Order were due by March 30, 2005. The Regional Board, in their own comments to the State Board, made it clear that they did not feel that they abused their discretion and the order was issued in an effort to protect the citizens. In addition, they urged the State Board to uphold the original Alternative Water Supply CAO. The State Board's workshop is scheduled for April 6, 2005 in Sacramento.
  - 2. **Alternative Water CAO Implementation Timeframe:** Olin Corporation is working with individual well owners to test their wells periodically to determine whether they are eligible to receive bottled water. There is not a specific timeframe as to when this issue will be resolved. However, Olin is taking significant steps to resolving the issue. Olin started a pilot program in which they have installed ion-exchange systems. Downsized ion-exchange systems are known to remove perchlorate from water but have not been certified yet.
  - 3. **Northeast Flow:** The Regional Board directed Olin to investigate the Northeast Flow of perchlorate and Olin has submitted a work plan in response. Wells are to be installed and sampled by July 1, 2005. Olin agreed to install 4 multi-level wells, which monitor at seven different levels. The Santa Clara Valley Water District currently has 10-15 wells in the area, which monitor water levels. The new wells will help determine which depths have higher levels of contamination and the direction of flow.
  - 4. **Groundwater Investigation and Cleanup CAO:** The Regional Board issued the Groundwater Investigation and Clean up and Abatement Order on March 10, 2005. The Regional Board has not heard anything from Olin in regards to an appeal but they have until April 11<sup>th</sup> file. This CAO deals primarily with the long-term groundwater cleanup.
  - 5. **Tenant Soil and Groundwater Tests Update:** This topic will be discussed at next month's PCAG meeting, on May 6, 2005.
  - 6. **Off-site Monitoring Results Summary:** This topic will be discussed at next months PCAG meeting, on May 6, 2005.
- B. Alternative Water Supply (Sylvia Hamilton)

1. **Certification of downsized ion-exchange systems:** It is very important for PCAG to help expedite the process of getting perchlorate certification for ion-exchange systems. Mr. Craig O'Donnell, District Director for Assemblymen Laird, said that he in the process of setting up a meeting with the Department of Health Services (DHS) regarding this issue. Aside from DHS, the National Sanitation Foundation can also certify the systems.
2. **High Volume Wells:** Tracy Hemmeter distributed a map showing the location of small public water system wells. The Chair expressed interest in a map showing all the "high volume" wells, not just public water wells. Ms. Hemmeter said SCVWD can provide a map showing all wells and their relative pumping volume at the May meeting.
3. **Agriculture Presentation:** Mr. Kevin O'Day made a presentation about the relationship of perchlorate and agriculture (ag). This presentation was originally put together by Greg Van Wassenhove and Janie Burkhart for the Perchlorate Medical Advisory Group.
  - a) **Well Usage and Designation:** 451 Southern Santa Clara County wells have tested positive for perchlorate concentrations of 4ppb or greater. Of those wells: 337 are listed for domestic use, 90 are designated for agricultural use, 19 are listed as municipal or industrial wells, and 5 wells do not have a designated use. It is important to understand that even though some wells are designated as ag wells they can still be used for portable uses.

Q: Are there any other institutions such as Texas Tech who are researching this issue. What will be done for California farmers in getting more testing done?

A: Testing will be done at the national level. First, more studies need to be conducted as to what the dietary intake of these foods really means to the health of consumers.

- b) **Well Cleanup:** Ag wells are responsible for removing a larger amount of water than domestic wells, and thereby require different types of filtration and treatment.
- c) **Well Testing:** Some studies have been conducted but there is still not enough information about the uptake of perchlorate into crops and its presence in milk. Studies have revealed the presence of perchlorate in various ag samples but there has been no accompanying analysis with regard to correlating health risks.
- d) **Recommendations:** Clean up agricultural wells to the same perchlorate ppb level as drinking water wells. Minimize adverse effect on local agricultural industry while advocating for: A National or Statewide agricultural risk assessment and an investigation into alternative routes of exposure.
4. **Bottled Water Deliveries:** When perchlorate was first detected, bottled water was supplied to well owners by the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) and Olin. Since Olin has been identified as the responsible party and has time to establish a comprehensive bottled water delivery program, the SCVWD has transferred its remaining accounts to Olin. If anyone has concerns or questions regarding this transition, they can contact the District at (408) 265-2600. In general, if people have questions about bottled water deliveries, they should contact Olin (800-295-6141), the Regional Board, or Ms. Hamilton.

C. **EPA Reference Dose and Meaning of 24.5 ppb** (Sylvia Hamilton)

1. There is no documentation regarding what the standard of 24.5 ppb is and where it comes from. Kevin Mayer who is the Perchlorate Project Manager at the EPA has been contacted regarding the issue.

#### IV. Additional Topics

##### A. **PWG Update** (Tracy Hemmeter)

1. The PWG discussed Alternative Water Supply CAO and supports Regional Board's position to be protective. They provided a comment letter to the SWRCB and will send a representative to the April 6, 2005 workshop.
2. The PWG also discussed implementation of Groundwater Investigation and Cleanup CAO and how it will be tracked. PWG is comparing the requirements of the CAO with the PWG's conceptual plan. The tracking chart, once it is completed, will be shared with PCAG.

##### B. **Federal Grants and Project Planning Update** (Tracy Hemmeter)

1. The SCVWD is still working on work plan applications to get grants from the EPA.

##### C. **Well Testing** (Tracy Hemmeter)

1. SCVWD sent out cards to registered well owners urging them to have their wells tested periodically.
2. Currently no one under 2ppb should be receiving bottled water. Testing requirements include that Olin initially tests wells quarterly for four quarters to determine if it has perchlorate levels of 4ppb or higher. If there is not a high detection and water is discontinued, Olin is still required to test the water semi annually at first and then annually to make sure the levels stay below 4 ppb.
3. PCAG should have an agenda item explaining the current testing requirements for well owners.

##### D. **Committee on Perchlorate** (Craig O'Donnell)

1. There will be a select committee on perchlorate in the assembly this year, with Mr. Joe Baca Jr. as chair. Assembly member John Laird is lobbying to be named to the committee by the speaker. The process in which the committee is selected involves several steps. First, the speaker chooses which select committees will be formed and names the chair. He then makes his decision public and starts naming committee members. Although there is no specific period as to when the process will be completed, the Chair is expected to name the committee members soon.

IV. Next Meeting- May 6, 2005 from 2 – 4 pm at the Lions Club Hall.

Meeting was adjourned

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Minutes submitted by Zohra Karimi